



N.O.W. News

Vol. 44 No. 3

Fall 2006

Numismatists of Wisconsin



A Penny Saved is a Penny Earned

Numismatists of Wisconsin
is incorporated in the state of Wisconsin as a non-stock nonprofit tax exempt corporation.
Your contributions are tax deductible

The objective of Numismatists of Wisconsin is to encourage and promote interest in numismatics, to cultivate friendly relations between Wisconsin coin collectors and Wisconsin coin clubs, and to encourage and assist new numismatic hobbyists. All resources of the organization shall be used to further these objectives. Dues are \$5 per year and entitles participants to NOW News, this quarterly publication. Among the services offered are coin authentication, a Speaker's Bureau, show calendar coordination and guidelines

Fall 2006



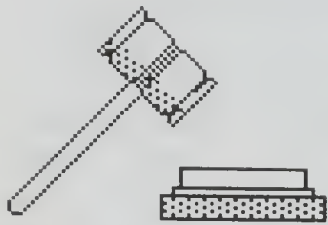
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NOW News Deadlines

February 1, May 1, August 1 and November 1



President's Message by Thad Streeter

Summer is done and it's back to school for some and simply back to work or on with life for others. I hope that all NOW members had a good summer, able to enjoy their family, friends and hobby.

Your NOW board met in Fond du Lac on August 27th during this year's NOW event. As you know, we didn't have a state show so we held an event that allowed us to install Officers and Governors, meet as a board and hold the annual General Membership meeting. I'm glad to say that all of the above were accomplished and it seemed to me that the NOW members present enjoyed each other's company for the day.

The good news is that NOW has a complete board and that all offices are filled. We have a current membership of 281, only 36 shy from last year. Not bad considering that dues were increased. It also shows me that collectors see the value of their NOW membership. In no small part this value is received through our excellent publication, NOW News, and I am confident that our membership will continue to grow and surpass previous levels.

We also have state show sites planned for the next three years... Madison in 2007, Iola in 2008 and Green Bay in 2009. I look forward to these being great shows in the tradition of past NOW shows. I thank the clubs and individuals that make shows like these not only a pleasure to attend, but allow NOW to travel through the state and connect with more collectors.

ANA will be in Milwaukee in the summer of 2007. Governor Cliff Mishler has been

working as general chairman for hosting this major event. NOW will be involved in this show so please offer your help to Cliff as you are able. He has been doing a tremendous job of planning and organizing this event for everyone's behalf.

Financially, NOW is in the best shape that it has ever been. We will be able to execute some of the ideas that the Board of Governor's has been working on. It will be exciting for me to watch some of these plans as they come to life.

Finally, I need to touch on the demise of the Numismatic Research Society. This club, which has been around in excess of 20 years, has best been known for the February coin show held in Oshkosh each year and for its continuous support of the NOW numismatic writer's awards. In compliance with their bylaws, all assets of that club were turned over to NOW during our board meeting in Fond du Lac. I want to thank them for the generosity of their donation to NOW, for the assurances that I received that there will still be an annual February coin show in Oshkosh and that support for the NOW numismatic writers awards will still be coming from that area of the state.

In closing, I will be talking to you all again through our winter issue of NOW News and I am looking forward to attending the NOW show in Madison next March.

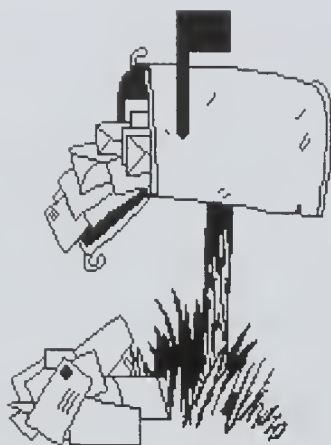
Until then, I shall remain yours in numismatics.

Thad

**Happy
Thanksgiving
(Eat Spaghetti)**



NOW Prez Sends Letter To ANA



The following letter was written by NOW President, Thad Streeter, and sent to William H. Horton Jr., President of the American Numismatic Association.

"I am writing you today on behalf of Numismatists of Wisconsin in regard to the recent unfortunate event concerning Dr. Walter A. Ostromecki Jr. and his removal from the Board of Governors of the American Numismatic Association.

After being duly elected by that board, his removal effectively discarded the votes of the many ANA members who elected him to that position.

In light of that event, the officers and the Board of Governors of the Numismatists of Wisconsin, respectfully request that Dr. Ostromecki be encouraged to again run for election to the Board of Governors of the American Numismatic Association and that the same board allow him to serve his full term of office if so elected.

*Thad Streeter, President
Numismatists of Wisconsin*

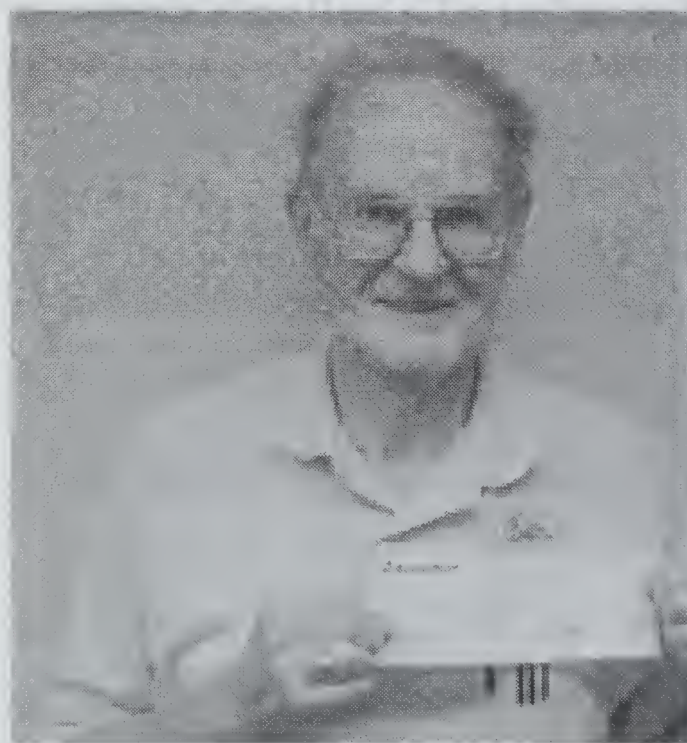
Numismatic Research Society Makes Donation To NOW

by Bob Van Ryzin #1285

On August 27th, during the quarterly meeting of the Board of the Numismatists of Wisconsin in Fond du Lac, WI, NRS Ltd. secretary/treasurer, Randy Miller, presented NOW with a donation of \$2,603.50 on behalf of the Numismatic Research Society (NRS).

At the same meeting, NRS president, Bob Van Ryzin, announced that NRS has disbanded. They have run a successful 1-day coin show the third Sunday in February in Oshkosh for the past 23 years. The group was founded in 1984 by Van Ryzin, Miller and Kerry Schaefer. Schaefer fulfilled the role of vice president.

The donation to NOW represented the final disposition of the non-profit organization's holdings as required by its bylaws. NOW may use the funds in any manner in which it sees fit.



NOW treasurer, Ron Calkins, accepts check from Numismatic Research Society's secretary/treasurer, Randy Miller.

Van Ryzin also announced that the popular coin show will continue unaltered from its current format and on the same weekend Sunday, but now under the banner of Wisconsin Coin Expos LLC. It will be conducted and solely owned by Miller.

"Although the Society officially conducted the show for a lot of years, collectors and dealers have come to know it as 'Randy's show' as Miller served as bourse chairman for each of the shows and did the brunt of work in making it the success that it was." Van Ryzin said "Now it truly is his show."

Miller plans to donate the annual \$50 second-place NOW Writer's Association cash prize. In the past, NRS provided the funds.

The South Shore Coin Club donates the \$100 first-place award, and the Milwaukee Numismatic Society backs the \$25 third-place prize.

The winners of the Writers Awards for the best articles submitted in 2005 are:

1st Place went to Robert Kraft for "Civil War Storecards of Wisconsin;"

2nd Place winner was Phyllis Calkins for "Meet Bucky Badger;" and

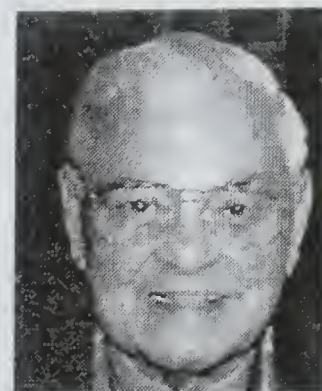
3rd Place recognition went to Jon Stock for "Lost to History".

The prizes are given annually to the authors whose articles are judged the best submitted during the prior year to NOW's quarterly journal, NOW News.

The next Wisconsin Coin Expos show is slated for February 18, 2007 at the Oshkosh Convention Center, 2 N. Main Street, Oshkosh, WI. Show hours will be 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For additional information, write to Randy Miller, P.O. Box 254, Oshkosh, WI 54903-0254.

* * *

In Memory *Life Member #0036*



Robert Steel, age 81, of Tomah, Wis. passed away July 8, 2006.

Bob became a Life Member of Numismatists of Wisconsin in 1965.

After graduating from Tomah High School, he enrolled in the U.W. School of Pharmacy. His education was interrupted for a tour of duty with the Eighth Air Force during World War II in which he served as a B17 pilot in the European theater. Bob later graduated from the WI School of Pharmacy in 1947 and owned and operated a pharmacy in Tomah until 1989.

Bob was a pillar in the Tomah community and served on many city organizations. He took an active part in many other political activities and served in various capacities on the federal, state and county level.

* * *

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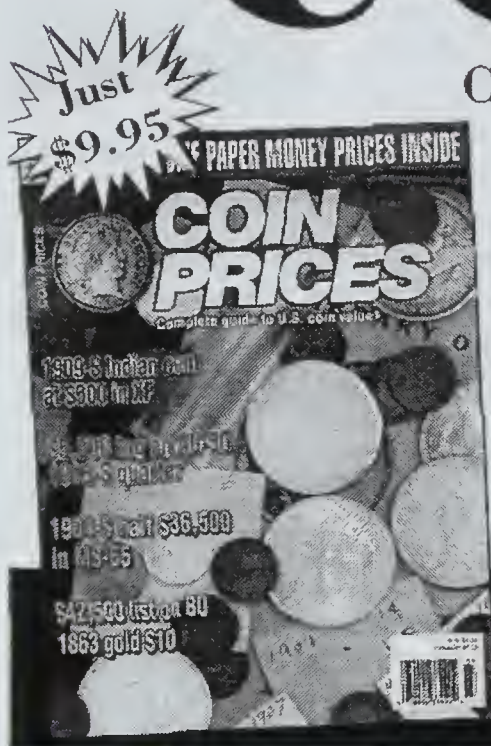
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Busy Week at the ANA Summer Seminar

by Lee Hartz #1219
photos by Tom Casper

Six members of the Milwaukee Numismatic Society attended the ANA Summer Seminar in Colorado Springs. Dave Hunsicker and Pat Bethe attended the first week and Bruce Benoit, Tom Casper, Lee Hartz and Karen Jach attended the second week.



MNS members attending the second week of the '06 ANA Summer Seminar – Karen Jach, Lee Hartz, Tom Casper and Bruce Benoit.

If you weren't able to attend, read on while I share some details of our busy week at ANA.

July 8th started out very early. After meeting Tom Casper we continued to the airport where we quickly got checked-in and after a 4-hour layover in Minneapolis, we arrived at the Springs about 1 p.m. We checked into Loomis Hall, attended a 4:30 orientation, followed by dinner.

On Sunday Tom went to the coin show while I hit the Library and the book sale. After lunch we went to our first class entitled "Military

Numismatics" which focused on World War II and later. It was a variation of the annual Military Payment Certificate Fest. It issued its own paper money (scrip) which we had to play "military payday" to get.

We learned about Allied Invasion money. There were several issues, one for the invasion of Italy, one for the Normandy invasion of France and one for use in Germany after we crossed the Rhine. There was also one for Japan and Korea, although it wasn't used much in Korea.

The issues for Italy and Germany were considered 'supplemental currency' and was used along side the local currency. The issues for Japan were also supplemental, although many Japanese never saw it. The Japan issues were precursors to Military Payment Certificates, which were not supplemental. MPC's were intended for use on U.S. Military Bases, in the PX, etc. and were not supposed to get out into the local economy, but, of course, did. Consequently they were changed fairly often. There was an episode of the TV show M.A.S.H. which dealt with a scrip exchange.

We had a practice session first (paid in Allied Training Certificates denominated in Lire), then after a break we got our actual pay in Allied Fest Certificates (also in Lire). Both times we had the pay recorded in our Pay Books, and had a punch in our ration card. This was followed by some trading among the "Seminarians"... some collect particular serial numbers; some wanted Star notes, etc.

With the Fest currency we could buy the books for the class (the beginning exchange rate was 1.7 Fest Lire to the dollar (a \$50 book cost 85L in Fest money). We could also buy 'bonds' and could purchase a chit booklet for buying sodas and water during the week. Several times a day the exchange rate was adjusted, with a final rate on



Combined Basic and Advanced Military Numismatics classes with instructors Fred Schwan (left middle) and Joe Boling (top center in dark shirt).

Thursday morning of 3.75L to the \$. After lunch on Thursday we had a currency exchange, receiving \$1 in new money for each 3.75L.

The session was listed as one class in the ANA registration, but was actually split into two groups. The Basic group was for those who had not taken the class before (although some had already been through the class several times).

Four participants who had already taken Basic took the Advance class, however, some of the things were included in both groups. The Advanced class had to do some research and then teach the Basic class what they had learned.

During the week we met a number of luminaries in the hobby, either in classes, around campus, at the ANA sessions or at meals. We met several people who were taking the class "Coins in the Classroom". Many were on scholarships -- apparently ANA gave them special 6-month memberships. Their group also dropped in on some of the other classes. When they hit the Military class, they went thru the pay line, got paid and were able to buy older editions of the books for their scrip, and got a number of other handouts and freebies from various classes and the ANA.

The Young Numismatists auction was held Wednesday evening, which totaled about \$14,250 for the two week sessions. Lots of things went for ridiculous prices, but all the proceeds went to the YN Scholarship Fund, so everyone bid generously.

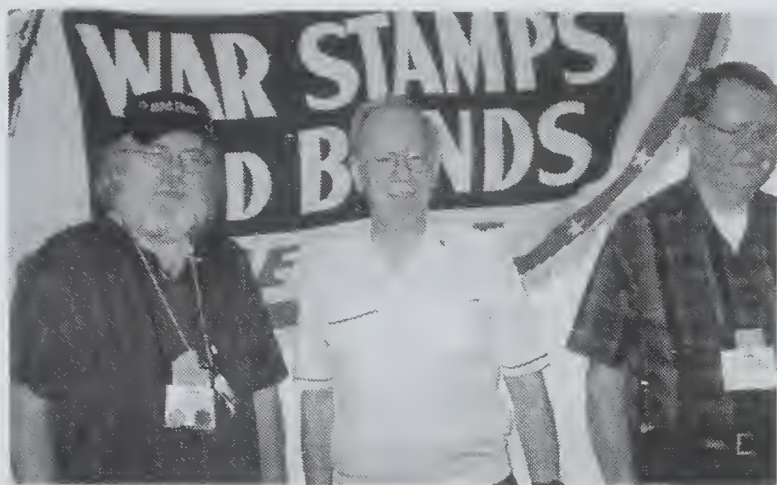
At Sunday afternoon's special session with the heads of the Outreach Department we found out there had been some discussion the previous week about changes in the Summer Seminar. They were proposing to shorten it to one week, and perhaps take it on the road to major coin shows.

This led to extremely heated discussions (although we were told it was even worse the first week). Some hotheads really got into it. Some cooler heads suggested that we break the whole thing into 2 separate pieces -- keep the length of the Summer Seminar and the alternate venues as separate issues.

Finally Don Kagin stepped up and said that this was the first that he heard of this issue. Since he was on the Board of Governors and the chairman of the Board's Education Committee, he finally decreed that next year's Summer Seminar would continue as 2 weeks. This met with unanimous approval from the members, but I don't think the 2 ANA folks were quite so happy about it.

At least that defused the issue for that evening. One of ANA's concerns was that less than 1% of the ANA membership attends the seminar. My observation was that this 1% was probably the most active members. The Outreach man said that he knew of other members who would have liked to attend, but couldn't afford it.

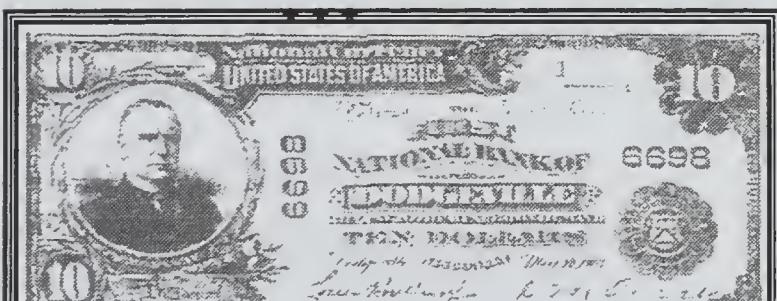
At any rate, the agitation died down and relative peace reigned. They did get even to some extent by setting next year's seminar a week earlier than this year's. Since the Memphis Paper Money show is a week later than usual, the beginning of the first week



*Ken Bressett at the Military Numismatics class
with instructors Fred Schwan (left) and Joe Boling*

overlaps with Memphis. That means most rag-pickers will go to Memphis and I would expect that there will be no paper related courses the first week of the Summer Seminar.

The Graduation Banquet was held Thursday evening, following a wine and cheese reception. Friday morning we were up at 4:00 a.m. for the flight home, arriving in Milwaukee about 11:30 a.m.



Buying Wisconsin Nationals

(Trades also considered)

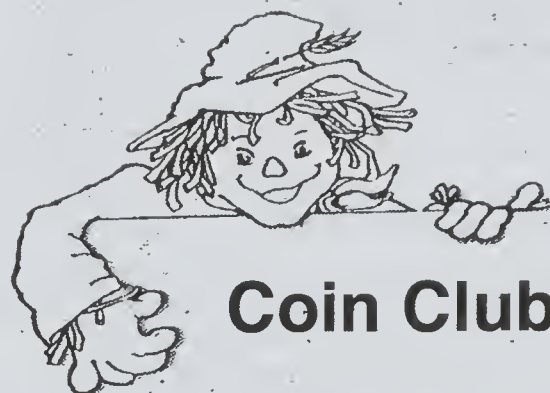
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Coin Club News

Dateline Minocqua Wisconsin

by Gene Johnson L-105

Due to the lack of dealer participation, the "Second Annual Summer Blast" sponsored by the Lakeland Stamp and Coin Club was cancelled.

This promising far north club activity was very likely spoiled by the global economy that has overtaken our nation in the form of high gasoline prices.

The mix of Wisconsin and Minnesota coin and stamp dealers who attended last year's successful show did not choose to return, and the anticipated upsurge of dealers making a mini-vacation of the trip to Minocqua did not materialize as I had expected. Gasoline may well have been THE factor (\$3.00+ per gallon).

The continuing erosion of our numismatic base (coin clubs) is a challenge that has been ongoing since the state of Wisconsin had 40 coin clubs in the hobby's heyday. I pointed this out in my opposition to the NOW dues increase, a negative factor at the wrong place in time.

Will attendance fall at other "outlying" show sites? Small coin shows are an endangered species. The La Crosse Coin Club never did recover from the ill-fated and later rescinded city tax fiasco of a few years ago. Saddened by the cancellation of the Minocqua show, I personally would dislike seeing only

a few large coin shows on the state scene, where local populations and larger coin clubs are able to maintain and sustain a numismatic event.

* * *

Madison Coin Club

On August 14th Madison Coin Club families met at Garnor Park for their annual picnic. Members brought a dish to share, with the club furnishing ham sandwiches and beverages. Lucky Bingo winners went home with silver rounds and other numismatic prizes which were donated by Jim's Coins, of Madison.

Milwaukee Numismatic Society

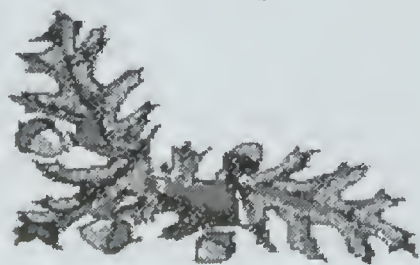
The club's first "Coin of the Month" auction went well. President Bruce Benoit, would like to base the monthly exhibit on a particular coin to further educate and share interesting facts about the coin.

Bruce had a very busy summer -- after attending the ANA Summer Seminar in Colorado Springs, he went to Niagara Falls, Canada for the Canadian Numismatic Association's convention.

As Committee Chairman for the 2007 ANA Convention to be held in Milwaukee, Bruce reports there are still several tasks for which volunteers are needed.

Fond du Lac Coin Club

Despite the change in date, it was a good show which was held at the Rolling Meadows Holiday Inn. The weather was great and collectors kept the bourse busy most of the day.



Wisconsin Rapids Coin Show

by Gene Johnson #105L

On August 6th the Rapids Mall again hosted our city's coin show. The event was widely advertised, hitting two TV stations, 18 shopping guides and 4 newspapers, accounting for strong collector traffic until late afternoon.

Everyone who had registered for door prizes the last two years was sent a postcard two weeks before the show (nice idea). Door prizes were again awarded this year.

The early August dating of the show, in a month pretty much void of numismatic scheduling, attracted collectors and dealers from the four corners of the state.

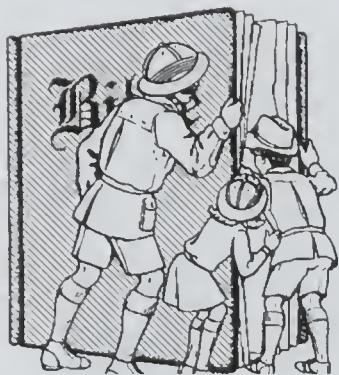
Fifteen dealers with 24 tables made up the bourse, with dealers from Illinois, Iowa and Minnesota. Hot collector items were gold, type coins and dollars.

As with previous shows in central Wisconsin, a lot of non-collectors came in for free coin appraisals reported Show Chairman, Gary Rosencrans.

Racine Numismatic Society

Something like the TV show, a quiz of "Deal or No Deal" with \$25 for prizes was approved by the club. George Conrad showed how 6 one dollar bills could be made into a T-shirt and off the internet he learned how a \$20 could be folded to show the pentagon and the twin towers with the two airlines names. To add a little trivia to their June meeting, Bill Spencer held a grading contest of seven coins. Anyone getting all seven right would win a prize. The best guess was four correct answers, so there were no winners.

* * *



BookNook

Encyclopedia of U.S. Gold Coins 1795-1933

U.S. gold coins have seen a popularity boom in recent years. Thousands of new collectors have discovered their rich and fascinating history and appeal. Important collections, locked away for decades have come to light, and a new research has provided collectors and investors with a wealth of information previously unavailable. There has never been a better time to explore the wonderful field of U.S. gold coinage – and the “Encyclopedia of U.S. Gold Coins 1795-1938” is your passport to that experience. Full color, 656 pages by Jeff Garrett and Ron Guth, forward by Dr. Richard Doty. The book sells for \$69.95 and is published by Whitman Publishing Company.

2007 Red Book

In 1946 a slim, but fact-filled book hit the hobby scene -- “R.S. Yeoman’s Guide Book of U.S. Coins”. The 60th anniversary edition prices more than 6,000 coins, with nearly 30,000 individual values and full colors throughout. The 417-page book edited by Ken Bressett sells for is \$14.95.

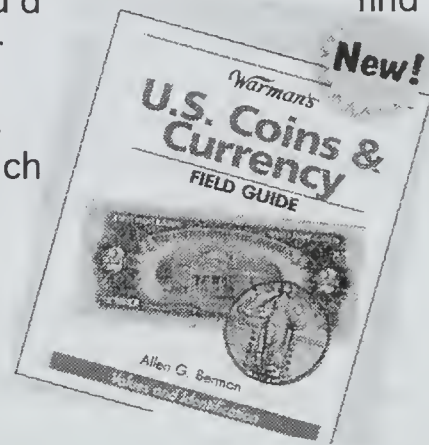
2007 Canadian Mint Collectors Coins

This updated edition contains coins made for collectors and not found in general circulation. The book contains original issue prices, 56 color pages plus market prices and sells for \$10.95. Call 1-800-265-0720 or check website www.collectorssupplyhouse.com.

Warman’s U.S. Coins & Currency Field Guide

With this book, a little investment results in a big return. With new state quarters and radically redesigned currency, a pocket guide with details and photos of U.S. coins and currency is a must-have for every level of collector, and non-collector alike.

This entertaining and informative little guide contains more than 350 photos, pricing and all the expertise you’d find in a large-size reference. Allen Barman is the author of this soft-cover book which sells for \$12.99. To order, contact Krause Publications www.krausebooks.com.



Money: A Rich History

[ANA Numismatist]

Many children seem to have an innate interest in and fascination with coins and paper money. “Money: A Rich History” by Jon Anderson is part of the “Smart About” series published by Grosset & Dunlap, a division of Penguin Young Readers Group.

This informative, soft-cover book is geared toward children ages 4 to 10. Within its pages are introductory lessons on the history of monetary transactions: barter and exchange, traditional money, coins and paper money. The illustrations, by Thor Wickstrom, are colorful and engaging enough that children will never suspect the story behind them actually is very educational. The book can be purchased from the ANA MoneyMarket at www.money.org for \$5 (plus shipping & handling).

* * *



2006 Uncirculated 20-Coin Set Available From U.S. Mint

[U.S. Mint]

On July 18th the U.S. Mint began selling the 2006 United States Mint Uncirculated Coin Set featuring the popular satin finish that was introduced last year.

This year's 20- coin U.S. Mint Uncirculated Coin Set sells for \$16.95 and includes uncirculated versions of each 2006 dated circulating U.S. coin, bearing the Philadelphia "P" and Denver "D" mint mark: The Lincoln cent, the "Return to Monticello" 5-cent coin (nickel) – featuring the final obverse and reverse designs from the Westward Journey Nickel Series TM – as well as the Roosevelt dime, the Kennedy half-dollar and the Golden Dollar. (Note: the one-cent coin struck in Philadelphia does not bear a mint mark).

The set also includes all 5 of the 2006 dated coins in the U.S. Mint's 50 State Quarters Program – Nevada, Nebraska, Colorado, North Dakota and South Dakota. Each set is packaged in polyester film and includes a Certificate of Authenticity.

Customers can purchase the set through the Mint's secure website at www.usmint.gov or by calling 1-800-321-6468.

* * *

Interested in Civil War Tokens? Join The Civil War Token Society

The Civil War Token Society was founded in 1967 and is a national, non-profit organization dedicated to help stimulate interest and research in the field of Civil War token collecting.



Activities include publishing their quarterly journal, conducting auctions, maintaining a reference library, providing an attribution service for a nominal fee, establishing State chapters and conducting regional meetings. There are currently over 1,000 active members.

The Civil War Token Journal is well illustrated and has data on patriotics, store cards, die sinkers, new dies, new varieties, merchants, auction prices, and die-a-grams. The purpose of their publication is to provide an exchange of information among the members.

Members buy and sell their tokens in the club's quarterly mail auctions. The Society charges the seller a 10% consignment fee, and the successful bidders pay the postage and insurance on their lots.

The Society's library is open to all members. Reference books, articles, and auction catalogs with prices realized lists are available for study. Among the references in the library are Fuld's "U.S. Civil War Store Cards" and "Patriotic Civil War Tokens".

For membership information check out their website: www.cwtsociety.com or send an e-mail to cwtpal@aol.com.



American Buffalo
24-Karat Gold Coins

New American Buffalo Coins Revive James Earle Fraser's Classic Designs of the Early 20th Century

The hot topic of conversations at coin clubs lately seems to focus on the new American Buffalo gold coins that the U.S. Mint released last June. It's the first time the government has produced 24kt gold coins for investors and collectors.

Production of these coins was authorized by Public Law 109-145 dated December 22, 2005, also known as the Presidential \$1 Coin Act.

The new American Buffalo Gold coin's obverse and reverse designs feature images originally prepared by noted American sculptor, James Earle Fraser, once a student of Augustus Saint-Gaudens, for America's 5-cent coin (nickel).

That popular coin, known as the Indian Head, or Buffalo nickel was introduced in 1913 and showcases the native beauty of the American West.

The Native American depiction on the coins obverse is believed to be based on three different American Indians. Two of the American Indians who modeled for Fraser as he sculpted the coin were named by the designer before his death. They were known as Chief Iron Tail of the Lakota Sioux and Chief Two Moons of the Cheyenne.

Although many have claimed to have had a sitting with Fraser for this design, he could not recall the name of the third person and satisfactory documentation has not yet been

found to identify that individual. It is widely believed that the bison on the coins reverse was modeled after Black Diamond, a popular attraction at the New York Zoological Gardens.

In the first year of the Buffalo nickel's issuance in 1913, there were two distinct varieties, the first showing the bison on a mound and the second with the base redesigned to a thinner, straight line. The American Buffalo Gold Coins bear the original Fraser Type 1 design.

Buffalo Gold Proof Coins

The U.S. Mint has produced a proof version of these coins for collectors. The term "proof" refers to a specialized minting process that begins by manually feeding burnished coin blanks into presses fitted with special dies. Each coin is struck multiple times so the softly frosted and highly detailed images seem to float above the field.

Proofs will carry the West Point "W" mint-mark with mintage limited to 300,000 coins. Purchases were originally limited to 10 coins per order, however, the Mint has increased the limit to 5,000.

An official Certificate of Authenticity accompanies each coin. American Buffalo gold Proof coins will sell at a fixed price.

Buffalo Gold Bullion Coins

American Buffalo Gold Bullion Coins are the first .9999 fine 24-karat gold coins ever struck by the U.S. Mint and offered for sale through a network of Authorized Purchasers. Pricing for precious metal investment bullion coins typically depends on the market price of the gold.

Krause Publications Introduces NumisMaster

[Numismatic News]

Collectors and dealers will have to go no further than their laptop to find prices mint-ages, descriptions as well as access to many other services.

A comprehensive electronic data base of coin and paper money pricing, accompanied by valuable information, buy-sell opportunities and many other benefits was launched by Krause Publications at the American Numismatic Association World's Fair of Money in Denver last month.

This is an online pricing and information service that also serves as a collection or inventory management system. Collectors will be able to subscribe to the service at various levels of their choosing, giving them the ability to access up-to-date values and

information on most of the coins and paper money in the world.

Krause Publications has the largest numismatic database in the world. Featuring highest-level security, the service will provide easy access to auction prices realized, expert advice, reports, interactive coin show calendar and numerous other benefits.

NumisMaster is slated to go live this month and subscribers will be able to purchase access to all or parts of the database. For instance, they may want to subscribe only to 20th century coins, or gold coins, or they can subscribe to everything.

David Harper, editor of Numismatic News, said that NumisMaster will be partnering with some of the leaders in the numismatics field to make the services available as dynamic as possible.

* * *

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Country Might See Penniless Days Ahead

*[Daily Tribune Wisconsin Rapids
article submitted by Gene Johnson]*

In this village settled by thrifty Pilgrims, you can still buy penny candy for a penny, but tourist Alan Ferguson doubts he'll be able to dig any one cent pieces out of his pockets.

He rarely carries pennies because "they take up a lot of room for how much value they have". Instead, like so many other Americans, he dumps his pennies into a bucket back home.

Pity the poor penny! It packs so little value that kids toss the coins into the fountain near the candy store, just to watch them splash and sink. Stray pennies turn up everywhere -- in streets, cars, sofas, beaches, even landfills with the rest of the garbage.

A penny bought a loaf of bread in early America, but it's a loafer of a coin in an age of inflation and affluence, slowly sliding into monetary obsolescence.

For the first time, the U.S. Mint has said pennies are costing more than 1 cent to make this year, thanks to higher metal prices. The penny is going to disappear soon unless something changes in the economics of commodities" said Robert Hoge, an expert on North American coins at the American Numismatic Society.

That very idea of spending 1.2 cents to put 1 cent into play strikes many people as "faintly ridiculous" said Jeff Gore, of Elkton, MD, founder of a little group called Citizens for Retiring the Penny.

And yet, while its profile of Abe Lincoln marks time in bottom of drawers and ashtrays, the penny somehow carries a reassuring symbolism that Americans hesitate to forsake.

"It's part of their past, so they want to keep it in their future" said Dave Harper, editor of Numismatic News.

Gallup polling has shown that 2/3 of Americans want to keep the penny coin. There's even a pro-penny lobby called Americans for Common Cents.

The Mint's announcement is a milestone, though because coins have historically cost less to produce than the face value paid by receiving banks. They are moneymakers for the government.

U.S. Rep., Jim Kolbe, of Arizona, wants to keep it that way. But when he asked Congress to phase out the penny five years ago he failed; he intends to try again this year. If he fails again, he joked that he may open a business melting down pennies to resell the metal.

The idea of a penniless society began to gain currency in 1989 with a bill in Congress to round off purchases to the nearest nickel. It was dropped but the General Accounting Office in a 1996 report unceremoniously acknowledged that some people consider the penny a "nuisance coin."

In 2002, Gallup polling found that 58% of Americans stash pennies in piggy banks, jars, drawers and the like, instead of spending them like other coins. Some people eventually redeem them at banks or coin-counting machines, but 2% admit to just plain throwing pennies out.

"Today it's a joke. Its outlived its usefulness" said Tony Terranova, a New York City coin dealer who paid \$437,000 for a 1792 penny prototype in what is believed to be the

denomination's highest auction price. Most people find them annoying when they get them in change. I've seen people get pennies in change and actually throw them on the floor."

Not Edmond Knowles, of Flomation, AL -- He hoarded pennies for nearly four decades as a hobby. He ended up with more than 1.3 million of them -- 4.5 tons -- in several drums in his garage. His bank refused to take them all at once, but he finally found a coin-counting company, Coinstar, that wanted the publicity.

In the biggest known penny cash-in ever, they sent an armored truck, loaded his pennies and then watched helplessly as it sank into the mud in his yard. "They needed a tow truck to redeem it and I've still got a few ruts in the yard" says Knowles. His years of collecting brought him about \$1 a day -- \$13,084.59 in all.

A penny saved was a penny earned for Knowles, but he learned another lesson from the experience too: "I don't save pennies anymore. It's too big a problem getting rid of them."

Another problem is deciding what to make the penny from. Copper, bronze and zinc have been used, even steel in 1943 when copper was desperately needed for the World War II effort. In 1982, zinc replaced most of the penny's copper to save money, but rising zinc prices are now bedeviling the penny again.

"I'm very surprised they haven't gone to plastic" muses Bill Johnson, a wheat-penny collector who owns the Plimoth Candy Company. (It uses an old spelling of Plymouth).

Even in his shop where a penny still buys a Tootsie Roll, he leaves a few pennies scattered on top of the cash register for customers like Lindsay Taylor of Westwood, who is buying \$1.78 worth of candy.

She is carrying no pennies because her sons have taken them for their old-fashioned piggy

banks, which automatically flip coins inside. Her 2-year-old, she says, "just loves pushing the button".

Others have their own reasons for valuing the humble coin, which borrowed its colloquial name from British currency. The "cent" (meaning 1 percent of a dollar) has been struck every year except 1815, when the United States ran out of British-made penny blanks in the wake of the War of 1812.

* * *

New U.S. Mint Director Named

Edmund C. Moy was confirmed by the U.S. Senate July 26th as the 38th Director of the U.S. Mint. He succeeds Henrietta Holsman Fore, who moved over to the State Department last year and takes over from Deputy David Lebryk, who has served as Acting Director during the interim.

[Numismatic News]

* * *

The COIN Act

Authorizing commemorative \$2 Federal Reserve Notes and abolishing the \$1 bill are possibilities raised in legislation introduced July 18 in the U.S. House of Representatives by Rep. Jim Kolbe, R-Arizona.

Called the "Currency Overhaul" for an Industrious Nation (COIN) Act, the bill also calls for putting the U.S. Mint and the Bureau of Engraving and Printing under the jurisdiction of the Federal Reserve rather than the U.S. Treasury.

Though the bill doesn't call for the abolition of the \$1 bill, that becomes an option after two billion \$1 coins are in circulation.

[Bank Note Reporter]

* * *

Newest Collectible: Early American Currency Plates

*[Daily Tribune article
submitted by Gene Johnson]*

Ornate currency produced by banks around the country became obsolete virtually overnight when the federal government started printing money in quantity in the 1860s. So did the intricate printing plates used to make it.

Now hundreds of the hand-engraved metal plates, many hidden in storage for more than 150 years, are going to the auction block.

“For historical significance, it’s hard to overstate it.” said Douglas Mudd, curator of exhibitions at the American Numismatic Association Money Museum in Colorado Springs, CO. “These are unique items. These are the plates that were used to produce notes and paper documents that built this country.”

Before they go up for auction, the plates are examined and catalogued by a New Hampshire firm that specializes in rare currency and coins, American Numismatic Rarities.

Detective Work Is Sometimes Needed

“When the plates come to us, they don’t say ‘Hey, we were used in 1841 to print this.’ We have to figure it out ourselves... and when we can, sometimes we have an eureka moment,” said David Bowers of American Numismatic Rarities.

The 200 tons of plates are from the archives of the American Bank Note Company formed in New York in 1858 by the consolidation of seven major engraving and printing firms. The collection comprises about 900 plates used for printing money plus 10,000 to 20,000 of various sizes that were used for other printing jobs.

“These are hand-engraved by highly skilled artists. It would not be unusual for someone to spend weeks doing a whole scene. They wore eyepieces and had very fine tools and magnifiers and did it one line at a time” said Bowers.

Bowers went on to explain that “American Bank Note inherited plates its predecessors had been accumulating for decades, including ones used to print advertisements, letterhead stationery and stock certificates that helped fuel the country’s economic and west-ward expansion during the early 1800s”.

“The company, now based at Trevose, PA, near Philadelphia, printed money for banks around the country until the federal government imposed a 10% tax on transactions involving such currency in 1866. People brought their state banknotes back to the bank and said ‘Give me federal money instead’. So almost overnight they all left circulation.” Bowers said.

The plates were left in storage until 2004, when the collection was purchased for an undisclosed price by John Albanese of Archival Collectibles of Far Hills, NJ. He has been sending the plates to New Hampshire to be researched before selling them at a series of auctions.

The first auction was held August 11th in Denver and had 158 plates used to print currency and stock certificates. Future auctions will include iconic plates such as Nipper, the RCA Victor dog, early ads for Campbell’s soup and invitations to events such as the 1884 dedication of the State of Liberty’s pedestal.

By the time they stopped issuing state banknotes in 1866 there were only 3 banks in the whole state of Texas, whereas in New York there might have been 300.

* * *



North Dakota Quarter

The fourth commemorative quarter-dollar coin released in 2006 honors North Dakota, and is the 39th coin in the U.S. Mint's 50 State Quarters Program.

On November 2, 1889 North Dakota was admitted into the Union, becoming our Nation's 39th state. The North Dakota quarter depicts a pair of grazing American bison in the foreground with a sunset view of the rugged buttes and canyons that help define the state's Badlands region in the background. The coin's design also bears the inscriptions "North Dakota" and "1889".

President Theodore Roosevelt founded the United States Forest Service and signed the Antiquities Act in 1906, which was designed to preserve and protect unspoiled places such as his beloved North Dakota Badlands, now known as Theodore Roosevelt National Park. Herds of American bison thundered across the Badlands through the 1860s. The park is now home to more than 400 wild buffalo, an animal once on the brink of extinction.

The North Dakota Quarter Design Selection process was launched by Governor John Hoeven on April 14, 2004 when the state's 9-member commission was announced. Chaired by Lieutenant Governor Jack Dalrymple, the commission invited North Dakotans of all ages to submit narratives of 50 words or less.

After reviewing thousands of suggestions, the commission recommended three narratives for design development: Agriculture, Landscape and the Badlands. Candidate designs were developed by the sculptor-engravers of the U.S. Mint and artists in the Mint's Artistic Infusion Program and returned to North Dakota. On June 3, 2005 Governor Hoeven recommended the "Badlands with Bison" design for the North Dakota commemorative quarter-dollar. The Department of the Treasury approved the design on July 20, 2005.

One of the two other design concepts considered during the final selection process was "Agriculture", the predominant industry in the state. This design included an aerial view of a modern farm with bountiful fields under an open sky. The other finalist "Landscape" featured migrating waterfowl and the sun breaking through clouds over a vast sweeping landscape scene.

* * *



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The Brandt Company

by Kevin Doyle #1424

Have you ever taken a coffee can full of mixed coins to the bank to be counted?

Have you seen the machine the coins were dumped into and then counted... to the penny? (.... I know, "cent" not "penny", but penny is the common-day usage.)

How often do you receive your coin change "untouched" as it rolls down into that little cup next to the register or at the end of the counter? How about the way rolled coins from the bank have that tight, crimped end that lets you see the last coin on each end of the roll?

Well, I don't wonder anymore because I work where these machines that accomplish these tasks are manufactured.

Brandt, Inc. is celebrating its 100th anniversary. Here is some Brandt, Inc. Coin Products Division trivia I'd like to share with you:

The Brandt Automatic Cashier was invented by Edward J. Brandt (founder of Brandt, Inc.). He was awarded 3 patents on July 9, 1895 for his then unique coin paying machine that dispensed the exact amount of change by depressing one key. Edward, you see, was the head cashier at the Bank of Watertown. One of his major responsibilities was preparing the employee pay envelopes for the local businesses. Remember, back then a pay envelope contained the week's pay in hard coins (yes, including gold). It was a tedious job.

The first Brandt Automatic Cashier was not, surprisingly, sold to the Bank of Watertown (where Mr. Brandt was still head cashier until 1898). This first machine remained in regular use until 1920 when it was repurchased by Brandt, Inc. for promotional usage.

From this entrepreneurial beginning of the Automatic Coin Payer, Brandt, Inc. has evolved to the present company that manufactures a variety of coin sorters, counters, wrappers, baggers, coin tubes, crimpers, bill straps, currency counters/ validators, and cash dispensers on up to cash vault management systems used by banks, casinos, tollways, vending, etc. Anyone who handles large volumes of coins or paper money is probably doing it with Brandt equipment.

As an ending sidelight, all final acceptance testing of Brandt products is done with actual coins whenever possible. Unfortunately, "coin searching" of the test funds for "keepers" is highly frowned upon, but occasionally a silver coin is obtained for face value.

Editor's Note:

Kevin Doyle is employed as an Electronic Engineer in the Quality Control Department of Brandt, Inc. The information for this article was excerpted from the Brandt, Inc. history, 1890-1990 by Charles Wallman, who is author of the book "Edward J. Brandt, Inventor".

* * *

Ex-Treasury Worker in Trouble

[Journal Sentinel article]

A former Treasury Department employee recently admitted that he stole more than \$67,000 in uncut sheets of \$100 bills and tried to launder the money through casino slot machines.

David Falson, who distributed currency paper within the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, was caught after casinos in Atlantic City, West Virginia and Delaware noticed \$100 bills that did not contain government seals or serial numbers. Surveillance video showed him feeding bills into slot machines, playing for awhile, then cashing out for new bills.

* * *

Views of the Thanksgiving Holiday



by Gene Johnson L-105

The way older people view American history is usually based on the composition of school textbooks assembled prior to the information explosion of the computer age that followed World War II.

The compounding of knowledge and expanded information systems, has vastly changed some of the deep seated attitudes of the American public today. A great deal of this change is lumped into a 21st Century social value called "political correctness."

A look at our holiday celebrations, some mandated by the federal government, reveals changing mores by the various media, which purports to correctly reflect the American public.

One of the more interesting changes is the autumn flip-flop of Halloween and Thanksgiving.

Thanksgiving in 1940 was an extended family affair with far flung and close relatives gathering with small and grown children in tow. In the upper mid west, this was even more so than Christmas in many cases, due to travel problems of snow and cold weather in the winter.

In this holiday of the 1940 era, Thanksgiving focused on the Pilgrim colonists in New England, emphasizing the religious context of giving thanks to God, and the Pilgrims sharing their food with aborigines that dwelled in and near the colony.



The little holed token shown here is one of two selections from my collection that feature pilgrims in classic hats who had just set foot in the new world.

The meaning of the P.S.S. on the reverse of the medalet is an unsolved mystery.



An equally attractive Pilgrim token is the Tercentennial of Massachusetts Bay, a brass 1930 issue. Unfortunately, my copy has been dug, and does not photograph well.

The public of 1940 was well aware of the "disappearance" of the 1609 immigrant colony at Jamestown and other bloody depredations by Indians in colonial history, but these were not emphasized.

Thanksgiving as a diminished holiday today is directly affected by immigration, since the holiday reflects the white Anglo Saxon protestant roots of the colonists (98.2%) which is a nation founding hallmark not shared by the 1850 immigrants and later arrivals.

The celebrations of “Saint Patrick’s Day”, and “Columbus Day” were politically created to assuage this influx of later immigration arrivals.

Today the huge Mexican immigration (legal and alien) has begun to spawn a need for ethnic holidays to which these latecomers can identify, since in Mexico they never experienced a Thanksgiving holiday.

Immigration, the generation gap, and political/informational age, have all battered family tradition. Not surprisingly, Thanksgiving has been impacted, the “Pilgrim” has been derided, the “Indian” aborigine revered, and the WASP religious connection demonized.

The erosion of parental values has also shrunk the family aspect of Thanksgiving and the media, playing to the youthful audience, is almost crazed in the bashing of the holiday.

Then we have Halloween!

Prior to World War II, Halloween was a hell-raising night out for the kids of blue collar workers who in that time frame dominated the employment field. Like father, like son.

Mimicking their parents, the children of this time period felt the “success” of Halloween was measured by the number of overturned outdoor toilets (which were numer-

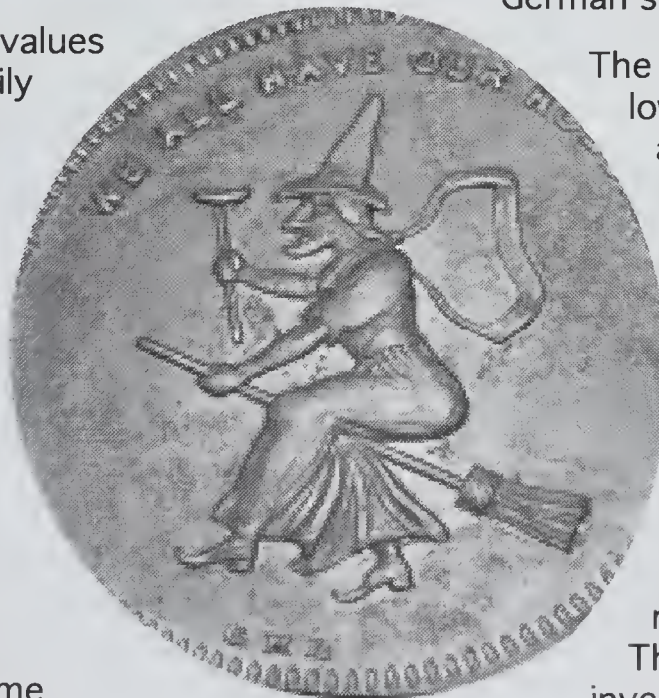
ous back then), waxed store front windows and splattered pumpkins on the streets. Halloween equated to juvenile vandalism.

The devandalizing of Halloween, which had begun of wartime necessity during the years 1942-1946, accelerated somewhat following the end of the war, with an increased emphasis on “trick-or-treat”.

Trick-or-treat, a positive social idea seemed to have arisen from nowhere, becoming a slow and measurable social change.

Each year vandalism decreased, and candy distribution became more commonplace. With the candy, younger children’s involvement drew more and more parents into chaperoning, and the “trick” in “trick-or-treat” became moot.

On Halloween kids now roamed the streets dressed as witches. One of these mythical ladies of medieval Europe is depicted on the illustrated token, which is a satire of collectors, nicely done in a metal alloy called German silver.



The surprising commercialism of Halloween followed, and today eclipses all American holidays with the exception of Christmas in financial expenditures.

*Halloween Token
(bronze or brass)*

27 centimeters

“We all Have Our Hobbies”

As the upward curve of commercial Halloween rose, the family Thanksgiving seemed to decline in inverse proportion.

Information sources we consider “media” grew more hostile to religious holidays and Easter and May Day have faded dramatically in stature since the 1950s. (The candy filled May baskets of the 1940s has vanished).

Today's politically correct school text books do not reflect the founding fathers long revered historic values, and sadly, the warm family oriented Thanksgiving holiday appears destined to continue to diminish.



Reverse of witch token

"Dedicated to Coin and Medal Collectors"



German 50 PFG Halloween Note



Coins to Ward off Evil

On February 29, 1692, witchcraft gripped Salem, Massachusetts. Even faithful churchgoers who lived righteous lives could be accused of being tainted and brought to trial.

To avoid persecution and prosecution some resorted to a very non-spiritual tactic: wearing a coin as a talisman or charm. Superstition had it that a bent coin could ward off the power of witches. Coins were thinner then and bent more easily than today's coins would.

Although in those days Massachusetts was chronically short of most coins, there was a sufficient supply of Pine Tree shillings and sixpence. Bent Pine Tree silver pieces are still seen today, though they have most likely been straightened out. Others were pierced so they could be worn as a charm around the neck. It was also believed that the evils of witchcraft could be avoided by nailing a coin to the house.

{source: ANA "Tale of the Coin"

On Halloween Victorian Women Tossed Aside Social Codes and Went Husband Hunting

Since we're on the subject of Halloween, this article appeared in the Wisconsin State Journal several years ago. Although it's not numismatically related, it includes an interesting bit of Halloween history.

For a genteel young women in Victorian America, life was all about waiting for marriage. She spent her days laced into a whalebone corset, perched stiffly on furniture upholstered in horsehair, and practiced her needlework.... EXCEPT FOR HALLOWEEN.

For that one night, the strict Victorian social code was turned on its head. Young single women were permitted, for the first time, to host their own soirees and even cavort in bat costumes.

The venues changed, too. Instead of seeing visitors in the front parlor under dour gazes of older relatives, they were allowed to invite their unmarried peers to her family's private quarters, like kitchens and bedrooms -- and without a chaperone in sight.

The games of Victorian Halloween would also be considered taboo or at least offensive, to Christian sensibilities on any other day. There were Tarot cards, Ouija boards, and fortune-telling games.

Victorian Halloween's brief heyday was sandwiched between the pagan death festivals and later, the Salem witch hunts (and well before today's child-oriented candy orgy).

The long-overlooked Victorian version of the holiday, as it was celebrated from the 1870s through the early 20th century in middle and upper-class homes, was the subject of a 2002 exhibit at the Pabst Mansion in Milwaukee. That was the first Victorian Halloween exhibit in the United States and most of the



artifacts were obtained from private collectors on the east coast.

It was the lower class Irish and Scottish immigrants who brought Halloween to America, with bonfires and remnants of Celtic ritual. But during the 1880s and 1890s, Halloween began to work its way into the upper classes becoming an adult holiday centered on matchmaking.

One game required a blind-folded (and unattached) player to put a hand in one of three bowls; cloudy water meant the player was destined to marry a widow or widower; an empty bowl meant he or she would never marry; clear water meant marriage to someone young and attractive.

"Naming chestnuts" was played by putting nuts carved with the names of single acquaintances close to the flames in the fireplace. The first nut to crack was your spouse-to-be.

Bobbing for apples had the same goal. Victorian maidens would transform themselves into Jaws in hopes of sinking their incisors into a Mr. Right apple dangling from a string or floating in a tub of water.

Visual hallucinations were also part of the festivities. In a darkened room, a young woman holding a candle would spin and then stare into a mirror until the face of her future mate appeared beside her own.

Even the food held prophecies -- three objects were baked into the Halloween fortune cake, and

each carried a message. A thimble meant you'd die a spinster or bachelor; a dime meant wealth and a ring meant you'd marry soon.

Victorians also helped make Halloween synonymous with costumes. The masquerade balls that had been popular with the upper classes were starting to fall out of favor about then, but dressing up became an instant hit at Halloween parties. They liked to dress as historical figures, but it was the bats who stole the show. It was the height of Bram Stoker's Dracula and everything about bats and vampires was popular... and bat costumes made women look like dangerous femme fatales.

Dressing like a witch, however, did not catch on at Halloween matchmaking fetes. The images of witches changed during Victorian times. They weren't evil anymore. They were kind of romantic, amusing figures. But looking like a witch then, as now, was still not considered the best way to help a Victorian maiden make the most of her annual husband-hunting free-for-all.

* * *

Unwanted Dollar Coins Pile up in Vaults, Congress Decides to Make More

[Wisconsin Rapids Tribune article
submitted by Gene Johnson]

Inside the vaults and terminals of the Federal Reserve and U.S. Mint, a 3-1/2 year supply of dollar coins is gathering dust. Americans seem to have little use for them, but instead of making fewer coins, Congress has decided to use tax dollars to make more starting next year.

The Presidential \$1 Coin Act requires the Mint to introduce four new presidential dollar coin designs annually and dedicate a third of its production to more Sacagawea coins, which already are sitting in inventory. Even

politicians who shaped the legislation question its wisdom, and the Federal Reserve System is wondering what to do with coins that are as popular with Americans as the metric system. If the new presidential coins don't stimulate a demand for the old ones, the requirement that the Mint keep producing Sacagawea dollars anyway would result in costs to the taxpayer without offsetting benefits.

The Mint makes a profit of 84¢ on every dollar coin it sells to reserve banks. Those profits help support the Department of Treasury general fund. But the banks already hold an inventory of dollar coins worth \$94 million, enough to meet demand for 18 months. That leaves the Mint sitting on 115 million coins that, if sold, would be worth \$96.6 million.

The Sacagawea coins have turned a profit of \$1.1 billion since they were introduced in 2000. Louise Roseman, a Federal Reserve Director, strongly recommended that Congress reassess the law's requirement to mint more. Rep. Mike Castle, R-Del, sponsored the Presidential \$1 Coin Act, but agrees with Roseman. He expects the presidential series to be a popular moneymaker just like the state quarters and blames Sen. Byron Dorgan, D.N.D. for the Sacagawea requirement.

"You already got a coin that's not being circulated, and it was done simply because Sen. Dorgan wouldn't allow the bill to be released and go forward unless that concession was made" Castle said. Dorgan blames the Mint and Federal Reserve for doing a miserable job moving the Sacagawea into circulation. He questions why coins featuring an ex-president would do any better. The Government Accountability Office faulted the Mint.

The Mint made a profit of \$871.8 million on the golden dollars and a similar number of Susan B. Anthony coins in fiscal 2000. But profits on the Sacagawea dropped by 91% the next year, and the Mint stopped making them in 2002, except for collectors.



Congratulations Mr. Peanut

by Ron Calkins #34L

This year Planters Peanuts is celebrating 100 years. The Peanut company started in 1906 and has quite a history!

Italian immigrant, Amedeo Obici, was born in 1876 near Venice, Italy. At the age of 11, he came to America, settled in Scranton, PA and later moved to Wilkes-Barre, PA where he operated a fruit and nut stand. He established his niche as "The Peanut Specialist," in the early 1900s.

It was from these northeastern Pennsylvania beginnings that the Planters Peanut empire was founded. Obici developed a new method of blanching whole roasted peanuts, omitting the hulls and skins. In 1908 Obici's business was incorporated as "Planters Nut and Chocolate Company".

In 1916 the Planters founder married peanut vendor, Louise Musante, who later helped her husband run the Planters factory in Suffolk, VA.

Obici realized that repeat business would be the key to his success and he wanted his brand name to be associated with quality.

In 1916 the company held a contest to create a company logo. The debonair marketing image of Mr. Peanut was derived from a crude drawing by Antonio Gentile, a Virginia school boy who won \$5 for his design submission of Mr. Peanut.

Mr. Peanut is Born

In 1916 Mr. Peanut was introduced to the world sporting a cane, wearing a monocle, spats and a top hat.



Then a professional illustrator enhanced the youngster's drawing, adding a cane, monocle, spats and top hat to create the company's logo, which became one of the most recognizable trademarks in the nation.

Advertisements containing the new icon began appearing in the Saturday Evening Post in 1918.

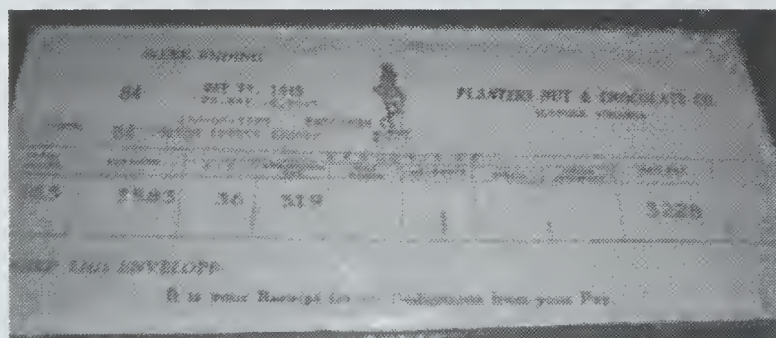
This 12-page advertising booklet featuring Mr. Peanut was published by Planters in 1927.





*Mr. Peanut
Employee Coin
"Team Success
Mr. Peanut"*

Mr. Peanut employee coins were originally struck for the manager of the Fort Smith, Arkansas plant to be given to their employees. Written on one side "Team Success, Mr. Peanut" and on the other side "positive reinforcement." The coin measures a little over one inch. For some reason the coins were never given out and therefore, are quite scarce.



This is an original paycheck stub for a watchman who worked at Planters Nut and Chocolate Company in Suffolk, Virginia. The pay stub dated May 18, 1945 was payment for 56.5 hours that the employee worked during the week of May 13, 1945 and he cleared \$32.28.

Mr. Peanut Gains Celebrity Status

Throughout the decades, Mr. Peanut has gained celebrity status. During World War II, he helped promote saving stamps and was a star attraction at the New York World's Fair in the 1960s. His fame in the United States stretched from coast to

coast, all of which he traveled in the Planters "Nut Mobile." In Hollywood, Mr. Peanut received a star on Hollywood's Melrose Avenue Character Walk and even today has his own fan club, the "Peanut Pals".

Mr. Peanut has also long been associated with Broadway. His first appearance was in 1942, when his billboard appeared in Times Square. In 1997 he made his inaugural appearance in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade and still travels the country in the "Nut Mobile."

Collectors Are Nuts About Peanuts!

Mr. Peanut reigns supreme in the antiques community as one of the first advertising icons.

Mr. Peanut items are popular collectibles ranging from mechanical banks to salt and pepper shakers, but Peanut collectibles command high prices. For instance, a Massachusetts collector shelled out \$20,700 to buy an authentic Mr. Peanut coin operated scale.

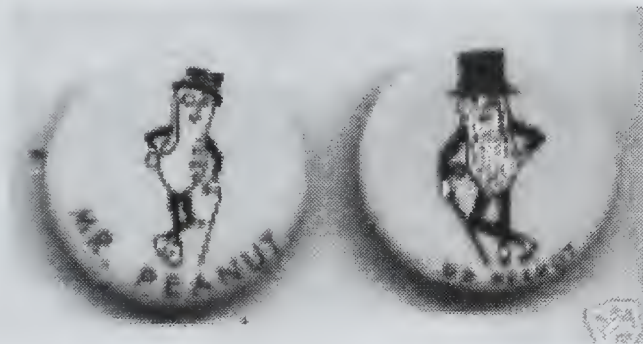
Cellophane coupons (shown below) were used to promote the company's 50th anniversary. Along with 25¢, the coupons could be redeemed for a Golden Mr. Peanut Nut Server. The coupon measured approximately 2-1/4" x 2 1/4".





***Mr. Peanut
cast iron bank***

Even store display jars and Mr. Peanut toys sell for prices ranging from \$300 to \$3,000.



*1940s Nabisco Planter
Mr. Peanut pinback buttons*

Planters Nuts is now a division of RJR Nabisco and boasts one of the most recognizable trademarks in the industry. After Wilkes-Barre, PA, the town of Suffolk, VA became the second home of Obici, the Planters founder.

The Mr. Peanut Building and Its Mural

In March 2005, the sale of the Planters Peanut building in Wilkes-Barre, PA sparked a new dialogue about America's favorite advertising icon. At the time of sale, the city landmark boasted a heroic size mural of the dapper Mr. Peanut. The new owners of the Main Street building, Cross Continental Realty, stated their interest in preserving the mural for prosperity. (Was it preserved??? I don't know....).

Within the annals of American industrialist history, the Planters Nut and Chocolate Company is an American success story.

The company built its business on peanuts and also gave birth to one of the most popular American advertising images....



***Mr.
Peanut!***

* * *

No man is really happy or safe without a hobby and it makes precious little difference what the outside interest may be... botany, beetles or butterflies; roses, tulips or irises, fishing, mountaineering or antiquities -- anything will do so long as he straddles a hobby and rides it hard.

Quote from Sir William Osler

Accumulation and Collections

by Pastor Ed Olson
#1749

Interest in coins occurred early in my childhood. I suppose what heightened that interest was that I grew up during the depression and like many other families, we were poor.

As a youngster I remember coins that were in circulation during that time. Of course

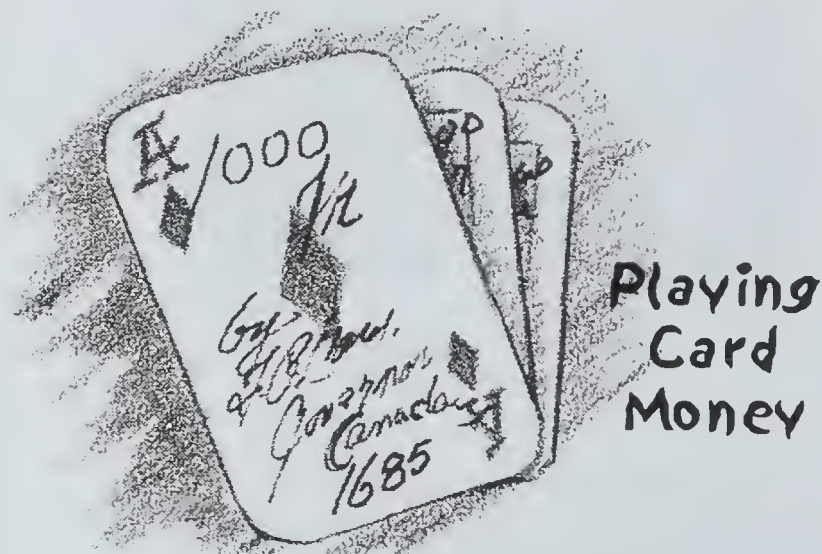
many collected Lincoln cents and great effort was made to fill as many slots as possible in the penny board. Also it seemed Buffalo nickels, Mercury dimes, Standing Liberty quarters, Walking Liberty halves were also seen in the marketplace.

After a few years had passed, I remember traveling with my parents to visit relatives in Montana. Hearing about silver dollars being available in western banks, I saved a few dollars for the trip and sure enough I was able to exchange my dollar bills for Morgan and Peace dollars. What a joy that day was. Walking out of that bank, holding fast in my pocket, those rare gems.

Now that I'm a senior citizen, my excitement is still there when I view coins from the past. On the front cover of the summer issue of NOW News, 2006, is the well-known phrase "Buy Quality, Not Quantity." Every collector would love to strictly follow that advice, yet for many of us that is not always possible. The great attraction for many is to collect what we are able and, of course, that which piques one's interest.

What this all means is that an accumulation can be and is a collection. The monetary value may not be very high, but no one can measure the great joy that it brings to an individual who calls it his own. That joy comes again and again each time one reads the book as well as looking at the coin. It really doesn't matter if the coin is graded good or about uncirculated.

* * *



The first paper money to appear in North America was printed on playing cards. In 1685 the French colonial government in Canada, suffering from a lack of francs, began issuing money printed on pasteboards from the standard playing deck of the time. These cards were signed by the colonial governor and were circulated throughout French Canada.

Though this odd form of currency was intended to be used only until the money arrived from France, it was so popular among the colonists that it was kept in circulation for the next hundred years.

[Ref. Mort Reed "Odd & Curious"]



The Krugerrand: The Original Gold Bullion Coin

There are many different ways to own gold, but one of the most popular gold bullion coins is South Africa's Krugerrand.

Introduced in 1970, the Krugerrand was the world's first gold bullion coin. It is denominated in ounces of pure gold rather than having a face value. Over the years, more than 54 million Krugerrands have been circulated worldwide.

Designed for Investors

The value of Krugerrands (which contain exactly 1 oz. $\frac{1}{2}$ oz., $\frac{1}{4}$ oz., or $\frac{1}{10}$ oz. of pure gold) can easily be determined from the internationally quoted gold price.

Krugerrands are durable. They are alloyed with a small amount of copper, making them 22-karat coins containing $\frac{11}{12}$ part 24-karat gold and $\frac{1}{12}$ part copper. Copper is a traditional alloy of gold coins used to harden coins, making them hard enough to resist normal scratching and denting — an important feature, as 24 karat coins and bars are more easily damaged and generally require protective packaging.

Krugerrands are easy to transport and store. Since the Krugerrand is so well recognized, buying and selling them internationally is exceptionally easy.

Krugerrands have always been legal tender coins under South African legislation. They are minted by the South African Mint. As legal tender coins, they do not need to be assayed or melted down upon resale, unlike some cast and minted gold bars.

* * *

“You Can’t Win”

A man's life is full of trouble. He comes into the world without his consent and goes out usually against his will, and the trip between his coming and going is exceedingly rocky.

The rule of contraries is one of the features of his journey.

When he is little, the big girls kiss him, but when he is big, only little girls kiss him. If he's poor, he's said to be a bad manager; if he's rich, they'll claim he's dishonest. If he needs credit, he can't get it; If he is prosperous, everybody wants to do him a favor.

If he is in politics, they say he takes graft; if he's out of politics, he's not patriotic.

If he gives to charity, it's for show. If he doesn't, he's a stingy cuss. When he's actively religious, some will say he's a hypocrite; if he doesn't take a deep interest in religion, they'll call him a hardened sinner.

If he gives affection, he's a soft specimen; if he cares for nobody, he's cold-blooded.

If he dies young, there was a great future for him. If he lives to be an old man, he missed his calling.

If he saves money, he's a grouch; if he spends it, he's a squanderer. If he works hard, they say he's crazy; if he doesn't work, he's a bum. If he's a coin collector most of his cash is tied up in money.... so what the heck is the use?

[author unknown]

* * *

Ancient Money of China

by Phyllis Calkins #99L

Thousands of years ago, cloth, weapons, and farm instruments, such as hoes, spades, chisels, and knives, were used a media of exchange. The use of bronze to fashion these tools originated in the 18th century B.C. when it was carried to China by caravans. However, large bronze spades and hoes were difficult to carry, and so trade was hampered.

In 1100 B.C. a wise Chinese ruler ordered that, instead of the real knife or spade, a small metal model of the object itself could be used, so coins were cast in the shapes of miniature shells, spades and knives.

Certain metal coins, now known as "pants" or "shirt money" were called "pu".

"Knife money" was called "tao".



CHINESE
KNIFE MONEY

Originally the real knives had a hole in the handle so that they could be hung from a belt. However, they were too heavy and too difficult to handle. The blade of the tao was made smaller, until the knives resembled keys.

Eventually only the round top of the knife, with its square hold in the center remained. These were known as "cash coins."



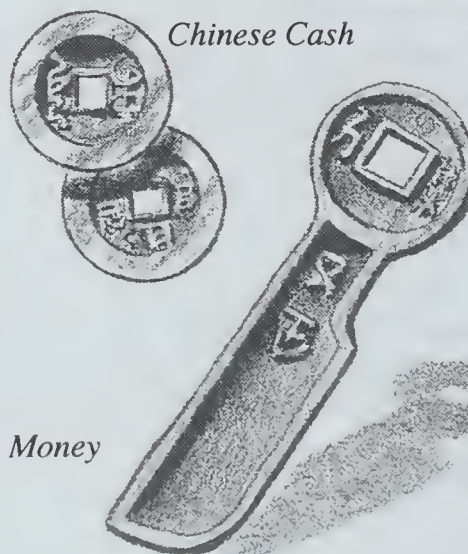
Bamboo money was used as a medium of exchange between merchants in China during the 1920s and 1930s. Each of these unique tokens has its own denomination in cash and even designates the bank in which it could be redeemed. Some even have serial numbers.

Made of actual bamboo and then stained, this odd and curious "money" is about 3-1/2" long.



Hoe Money

These objects had been a principal item of barter in China prior to the minting of coins.



Chinese Cash

"Key" Money

References:

The Story of Coins
by Sam Rosenfeld

Odd & Curious
by Mort Reed

Coin Club Meetings

Antioch, IL Coin Club

Meets at 7:30 on the 3rd Monday of each month at Antioch Library, 757 Main St, Antioch, IL. Contact: James Koutsoures 847-395-0599.

Barron County Coin Club

Meets at 8:00 p.m. on the 2nd Thursday of each month at the School Administration Bldg., 700 Augusta St., Rice Lake. Contact Barron County Coin Club, P.O. Box 256, Chetek, WI 54728.

Chippewa Valley Coin Club

Meets at 7:00 on the 1st Thursday of each month in basement of Parks Rec. Bldg., 1300 1st Ave. in Eau Claire.
e-mail 54701.com/coinclub or PO Box 2140 Eau Claire, WI 54702.

Fishbowl Wooden Nickel Coin Club

Meets the 3rd Thursday (April-October); at the Siren Sr. Center, 23943 State Road 35, Siren, 7:00 traders; 8:00 business meeting. Contact Gary Schauls, 2702 150th St., Luck, WI 54853-3811. Phone 715-472-2002.

Fond du Lac Coin Club

Meets on the 2nd Tuesday (May thru Sept.) at the Senior Center East 2nd Street in Fond du Lac. Contact Fond du Lac Coin Club, PO Box 254, Oshkosh, WI 54903.

Fox Valley Coin Club

Meets at 7:30 the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month at Prime Time Club, 11150 Valley Road, Menasha.

Kenosha Coin Club

Meets at 7:30 on the 1st Thursday of each month (except July & August) at 3030 39th Ave, Kenosha. Contact: Jerry Binsfeld Phone 262-657-4653.

Kettle Moraine Coin & Stamp Club

Meets at 7:30 on the 2nd Thursday of each month at Silverbrook Middle School, 120 N. Silverbrook Drive in West Bend. Youth meeting at 6:30. Contact: Dave Hunsicker 262-338-6064.

Lake County Coin Club

Meets at 7:00 the 1st Tuesday of each month at the Warren Township Library, O'Plaine Rd., Gumee, IL. Contact: Leslie Hanulla Phone 847-662-1955.

Lakeland Coin & Stamp Club

Meets at 6:45 the first and third Thursday of each month at Lakeland Senior Center, Woodruff, WI. Contact Paul Engwall 715-358-5400.

Madison Coin Club

Meets at 7:00 on the 2nd Monday of each month at Zimbrick Buick, 1601 W. Beltine Hwy. at Fish Hatchery intersection. Contact Tom Galway. Phone 608-238-1722.

Manitowoc Coin Club

No regular monthly meetings. An annual coin show is held in February. Contact Al Hrudka 920-775-4979.

Milwaukee Numismatic Society

Meets at 7:00 on the 3rd Thursday of each month at the Mayfair Mall Community Room, 2500 N. Mayfair Road in Wauwatosa (use #2 entrance, east side of mall). Contact Bruce Benoit, PO Box 210064, Milwaukee, 53221. Phone: 414-282-8128.

Nicolet Coin Club

Meets at 7:30 on the 2nd & 4th Tuesday at Stein Supper Club, 126 S. Adams in Green Bay.

Northwoods Stamp & Coin Club

Contact the club at P.O. Box 126, Rhinelander, WI 54501.

Ozaukee Coin Club

Meets the 2nd Thursday at the Rose Harms Legion Post, 1540 13th Ave. in Grafton. (Youth mtg. 6:30; General mtg. 7:00. Contact Ozaukee Coin Club, P.O. Box 832, Cedarburg, WI 53012.

Racine Numismatic Society

Meets at 7:30 on the 2nd Thursday at Castlewood Restaurant in Sturtevant (across the street from Amtrack Depot). Contact George Conrad 262-634-0833.

Rockford Area Coin Club

Contact: Rockford Area Coin Club, c/o Darrell Schultz, P.O. Box 294, Cherry Valley, IL 61016.

Sheboygan Coin Club

Meets at 7:00 every other Tuesday at Maple Lanes, 3107 South Business Dr., in Sheboygan. Contact Sheboygan Coin Club, P.O. Box 907, Sheboygan, WI 53081.

South Shore Coin Club

Meets at 7:00 p.m. on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at St. Roman's Parish Office, 1710 W. Bolivar Ave. in Milwaukee. Contact Walter Weis 414-384-7966.

Waukesha Coin Club

Meets at 7:00 p.m. on the 1st Wednesday of each month at the Waukesha Salvation Army offices at 445 Madison St., Waukesha. Contact Forrest Schumacher, 2300 Avalon Drive, Waukesha, WI 53186.

Wisconsin Dells Area Numismatic Group

Meets the 4th Sunday of each month at Chula Vista Resort, Wis. Dells. 6:30 social hour; 7:00 presentation. Contact Joe Kaminski 608-254-7908.

Wisconsin Valley Coin Club

Meets at 7:30 the 1st & 3rd Tuesday of each month at the Liberty Bell Coin Investments, 130 N. 3rd Ave., Wausau. Contact Thad Streeter, 715-355-5437. (June, July, Aug. meets the 3rd Tues. and the 1st Tuesday in December).



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Please send information on your upcoming show to the NOW News Editor, PO Box 155, Mazomanie, WI 53560. Include name of club, location of show, dates, hours, number of tables and your show/bourse chairman's name, address and phone.

October 1, 2006 - Milwaukee

Milwaukee Numismatic Society's 71st Coin Show at the American Serb Memorial Hall, 5101 W. Oklahoma Ave., Milwaukee. Hours: 9-4 p.m. 65 tables. Bourse Chm. Dave Hunsicker, 248 S. 7th Ave., West Bend, WI 53095. Ph. 262-338-6064.

October 13-15, 2006 - MOON

Minnesota Organization of Numismatics (MOON) Annual Coin Show at Earle Brown Heritage Ctr., 6155 Earle Brown Dr., Brooklyn Center, MN. Contact Jay Darby 507-202-3390.

October 15, 2006 - Racine

AMVETS Post #120 Coin/Sports Card Show at Memorial Hall, 72 7th Street, (off I-94 East on Hwy. 20 & Washington Ave., Racine. Hours: 9-3 p.m.

October 15, 2006 - Cedarburg

Ozaukee Coin Show at Circle B Recreation, Hwy. 60 and I, Cedarburg. Hours: 9-4 p.m. 40 tables. Contact: John Helm c/o Ozaukee Coin Club, PO Box 832, Cedarburg, WI 53012. Ph. 262-376-9503.

October 28, 2006 - Sheboygan Falls

Sheboygan Coin Show at Sheboygan Falls Municipal Hall, 375 Buffalo Street, Sheboygan Falls. Hours: 9-4 p.m., 40 tables. Contact: Ed Rautmann, PO Box 907, Sheboygan, WI 53082. Ph. 920-893-5874.

October 29, 2006 - Elgin IL

Elgin Coin Club's 44th Annual Show at V.F.W. Post 1307, 1601 Weld Road, Elgin, IL 32 dealers, Youth auction & club raffle. Contact Don Cerny Ph. 1-847-888-1449.

November 4, 2006 - Kenosha

Kenosha Coin Club's 48th Annual Coin Show at Kenosha Union Club, 3030 39th Ave., Kenosha. Hours: 9:30 - 4:00 p.m. 35-40 tables. Contact: Jerry Binsfeld 262-657-4653.

November 5, 2006 - Madison

Madison Area Fall Coin Show at Sheraton Hotel, 706 John Nolen Drive, Madison. Hours: 9-4 p.m. 50+ tables. Show Chm. John Krueger. Ph. 608-834-4100.

November 11, 2006 - Green Bay

Cancelled

November 12, 2006 - Springfield, IL

Central Illinois Numismatic Association's Annual Fall Show at Northfield Center I, 3210 Northfield Dr.. Contact Steve Butler Ph. 217-528-7634.

February 11, 2007 - Manitowoc

Manitowoc Coin Show at Club Bil-Mar, 3627 Cty. Hwy. CR, Manitowoc. Contact Al Hrudka Ph. 920-775-4979.

February 18, 2007 - Oshkosh

Wisconsin Coin Expo Coin Show at the Oshkosh Convention Center, 2 N. Main St., Oshkosh. Hours: 9-5 p.m. Contact Randy Miller, PO Box 254, Oshkosh, WI 54903.

February 25, 2007 - Racine

Racine Numismatic Society's 69th Annual Coin Show at South Hills Country Club, 3047 Hwy. 41/94, Franksville, WI. Hours: 8:30-3:00 p.m. 41 tables. Contact Dick Roskres at 262-554-0540 or Jerry Binsfeld at 262-657-4643.

March 4, 2007 - NOW

Madison Coin Club will host NOW's 47th Annual Show at the Sheraton Hotel, 706 Nolan Drive, Madison. Show Chm. Josh Moran Ph. 608-836-1777.

March 8-11, 2007 - Rosemont, IL

Chicago Paper Money Expo at Crowne Plaza,
Chicago O'Hare. Contact Kevin Foley 414-421-3484.

March 11, 2007 - Brookfield

Waukesha Coin Club's 38th Annual Coin Show at
American Legion Hall, 3245 N. 124th St. Brookfield.
Contact: Forrest Schumacher Ph: 262-542-3934.

March 16-18, 2007 - ANA

ANA National Money Show at Charlotte Con-
vention Center, Charlotte, NC. Contact ANA Convention
Dept. 719-632-2646.

March 29-31, 2007 - Milwaukee

South Shore Coin Club's 43rd annual show at the
Four Points Sheridan Hotel, Milwaukee.

April 1, 2007 - Appleton

Fox Valley Coin Club's 52nd Annual Spring Coin
Show at Wave Bar & Ballroom, 2350 N. Casaloma
Dr. (near Fox Cities Stadium), Appleton. Hours 9-4,
40 dealer tables. Contact James Bayer, P.O. Box 1981,
Appleton, WI 54912. Phone 920-739-1089.

April 22, 2007 - Wausau

Wisconsin Valley Coin Show at the Wausau Inn, 2101
N. Mountain Rd., Wausau. Hours: 9-5 p.m.
45 dealers, Show Chm. Thad Streeter, 5002 Tanya St.,
Shofield, WI 54476. Ph. 715-355-5437.

April 25-29, 2007 - Rosemont, IL

Chicago International Coin Fair at Crowne Plaza,
Rosemont, IL. Contact Kevin Foley, 414-421-3484.

May 6, 2007 - Green Bay

Nicolet Coin Club's Spring Coin Show at Comfort
Suites/Rock Garden, 1951 Bond Street, Green Bay.
Hours: 9-4 p.m. 39 tables. Bourse Chm. Roger Bohn,
1345 Ponderosa Ave., Green Bay, WI 54313.
Phone: 920-499-7035.

May 10-13, 2007 - Central States

CSNS 68th Anniversary Convention in St. Louis,
MO. Contact Jerry Lebo Phone 574-753-2489.

June 21-24, 2007 - Rosemont, IL

26th Annual Mid America Coin Expo at Donald Ste-
phens Convention Center. Contact Kevin Foley
Phone 414-421-3484.

August 8-12, 2007 - ANA

American Numismatic Association's 116th anniversary
Convention in Milwaukee, Wis. Contact ANA Con-
vention Dept. Phone 719-632-2646.

October 7, 2007 - Milwaukee

Milwaukee Numismatic Society's 72nd coin show at
the American Sub Memorial Hall, 5101 W. Oklahoma
Ave., Milwaukee. Hours: 9-4 p.m. 64 Tables.
Bourse chm. Dave Hunsicker, 248 S. 7th Ave. West
Bend, WI 53095-3221. Phone 262-338-6064.

November 23-25, 2007 - Dearborn, MI

Michigan State Numismatic Society's 52nd Anniver-
sary Thanksgiving Convention at Hyatt Regency Hotel,
1 Fairlane Dr. Contact: Don Charters 734-721-4991.

February 17, 2008 - Oshkosh

Wisconsin Coin Expos LLC 24th Annual Coin Show
at Oshkosh Convention Center. Contact Randy Miller,
P.O. Box 254, Oshkosh. Ph. 920-231-6161.

April 26-29, 2008 - Central States

CSNS Convention at Donald E. Stephens Convention
Center in Rosemont, IL. Bourse contact: Jerry Lebo,
Phone 574-753-2489; e-mail: lebo@clss.net.

July 30-Aug. 3, 2008 - ANA

117th Anniversary American Numismatic Assoc.
Convention in Baltimore, MD. Contact ANA Con-
vention Dept., Phone 719-632-2646.

August 20-24, 2008 - ANA

St. Louis, MO.

November 28-30, 2008 - Dearborn MI

Michigan State Numismatic Society's 53rd Anniver-
sary Thanksgiving Convention. Hyatt Regency Hotel in
Dearborn. For information contact Don Charters
Phone 734-7221-4991.

April 29-May 2, 2009 - Central States

70th Anniversary CSNS Convention at Cynergy Center,
Cincinnati OH. Contact Jerry Lebo Ph. 574-753-2489.

2010 - Central States

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